KB
P7

K8/P7

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

The Royal Sanitary Institute
Library.

MEMORANDUM

ON THE PROVISION OF

GROUPED COTTAGE HOMES FOR CHILDREN

(WITH PLANS)

LONDON
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120 George Street, Edinburgh 2;
York Street, Manchester 1; 1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
80 Chichester Street, Belfast;
or through any Bookseller
1935
Price 9d. Net.
32-310

22502822256

Acc 1698

MEMORANDUM

On the provision of Grouped Cottage Homes for Children

Introductory.

The following notes have been prepared for the guidance of Public Assistance Authorities who propose to erect Homes on the cottage principle for children under their care. Both the notes and the plans appended may require modification according to special circumstances.

(1) Definition.

By the expression "Grouped Cottage Homes" is meant cottages grouped in a self-contained community as distinguished from houses scattered about in different parts of the area of the Public Assistance Authority.

(2) Site.

Every effort should be made to secure a site with the essential services and near to schools and churches which will be available for the children. Education of the children in schools set aside for the use of the Homes is considered undesirable, and it is important that the children should enter into the games and other activities, such as scouts and guides, of the children of the district.

Due consideration should also be given to the availability of medical supervision and of hospital accommodation for sudden operation or illness.

(3) Area.

The area of the site will, of course, depend on the number, sex and age of the children for whom accommodation is to be provided. There should be adequate land for recreation and some garden. Probably one quarter of an acre for each cottage containing ten or twelve children would be sufficient.

(4) Water.

This should preferably be obtained from a public supply. If obtained from a well on the site, precautions must be taken to ensure the purity of the water, particularly if sewage is disposed of on the site.

(5) Drainage.

Preference should be given to a site where a watercarriage system of drainage may be connected to a public sewer, but where this is impracticable the sewage may be disposed of by tank treatment followed by filtration or land irrigation if the soil is suitable.

(6) Accommodation.

The cottages should be designed to accommodate ten to twelve children each, with a maximum of fifteen. Where the number exceeds ten, or at most twelve, it is desirable that accommodation should be provided for an assistant to the foster-mother.

The cottages may be detached or semi-detached and the buildings should be simply and economically arranged. Where the cottages are semi-detached inter-communicating doors are desirable to facilitate escape in case of fire.

There should be on the Ground Floor a larder, store, bathroom, cloakroom, lavatory basins and W.Cs. in addition to the kitchen and living room. Some authorities may prefer a kitchen-dining-room to the combination of day-room and dining-room. Where this plan is adopted a separate scullery is needed.

Again it may sometimes be considered preferable to have the children's bathroom upstairs, but experience goes to show that supervision is made easier for the busy fostermother where the bathroom is on the ground floor.

On the First Floor there should be dormitories allowing for 35 square feet minimum per child. It is desirable that the dormitories should contain not more than six, or at the outside eight, beds each. Where more than six beds are provided dormitories should be cross ventilated. A single bedroom for a sick child is an advantage. A W.C. should be provided for night use. In addition there should be a serviceable bedroom for the Foster Mother and adequate cupboard room should be available for clothing, boots, etc.

Facilities for the laundry work of the group should be provided.

Unless a Receiving Home for children is otherwise available a cottage should be set aside for the purpose.

(7) **Classification.**

Girls and boys of all ages should not be accommodated in the same Home. Homes may be provided either for boys of all ages or for boys from eight years upwards; for girls of all ages and little boys up to seven, or for children of both sexes under five.

A nursery is desirable (*a*) for infants who for special reasons cannot be kept with their mothers and (*b*) for children under school age for whom there is no suitable accommodation in the cottages themselves.

(8) **Staff.**

In a cottage for ten children one foster-mother is required, but where this number is exceeded some assistance will be needed. This is sometimes arranged by means of a relief staff over a group of cottages, but where the number of children in a cottage exceeds twelve, it is desirable for an assistant to reside in the house. In a large group a Superintendent's house will also be needed.

For a nursery there should be one member of the staff to every eight or nine babies. The person in charge should have had full children's or general nursing training and in a nursery with more than 20 there should be a second nurse with children's training. The remainder of the staff may be probationers or crêche-trained.

(9) **Plans.**

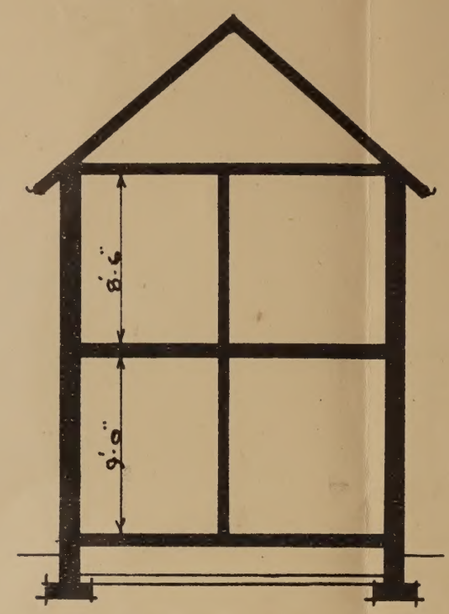
The accompanying plans may be found useful in the preparation of schemes for Grouped Cottage Homes and Nursery Homes.

January, 1935.

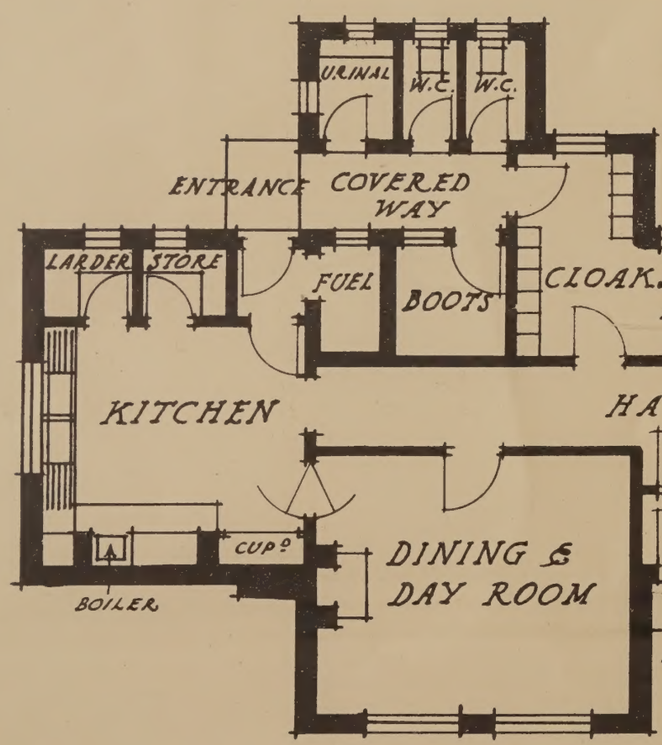
(26480-26) Wt. 2339—7159 375 1/35 P. St. G. 372

PLAN I.

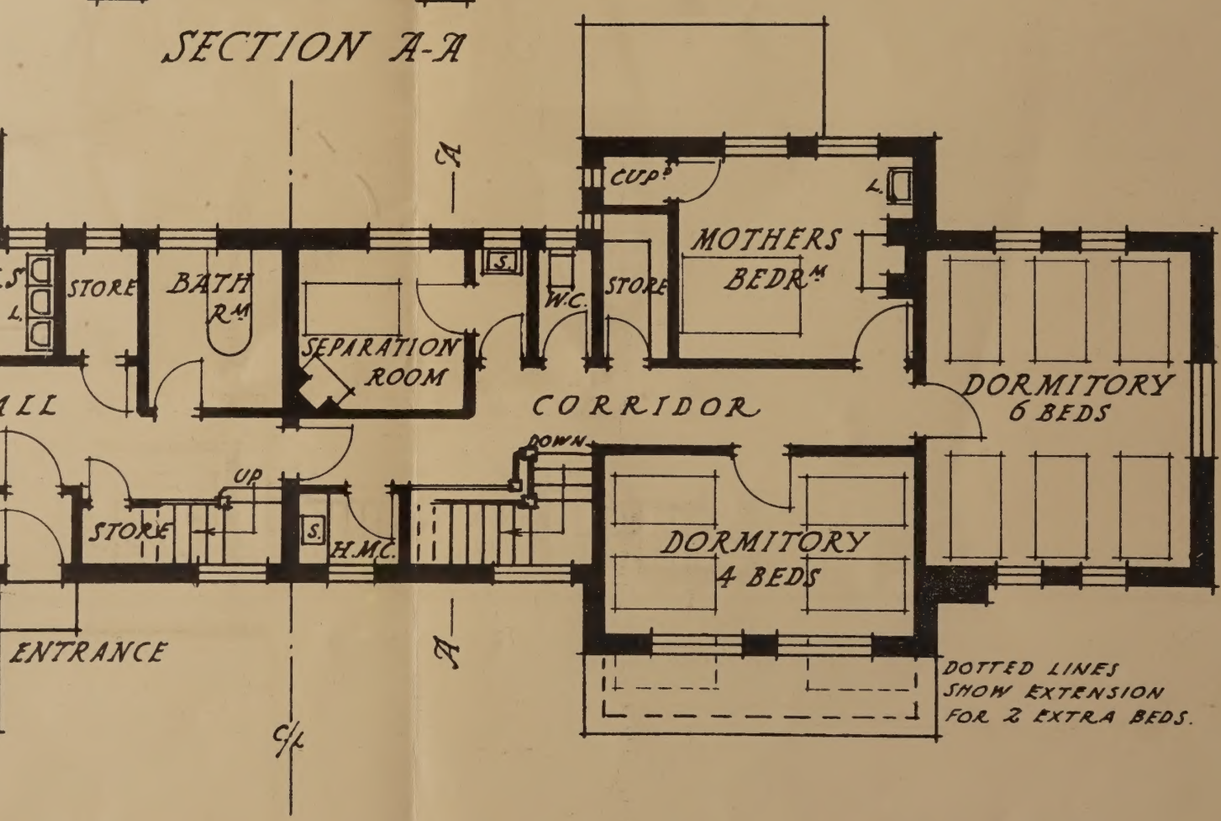
CUBICAL CONTENTS = 26,160 FEET @ 1d = £109
FOR SINGLE COTTAGE



SECTION A-A

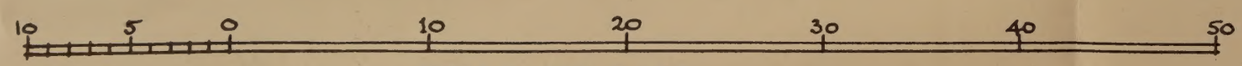


GROUND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

DOUBLE COTTAGE TO ACCOMMODATE 10 CHILDREN IN EACH

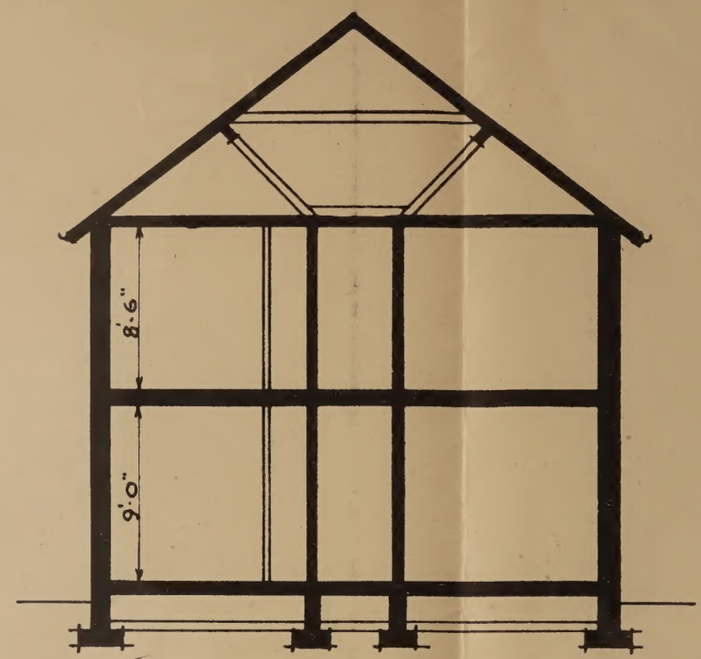


SCALE OF FEET

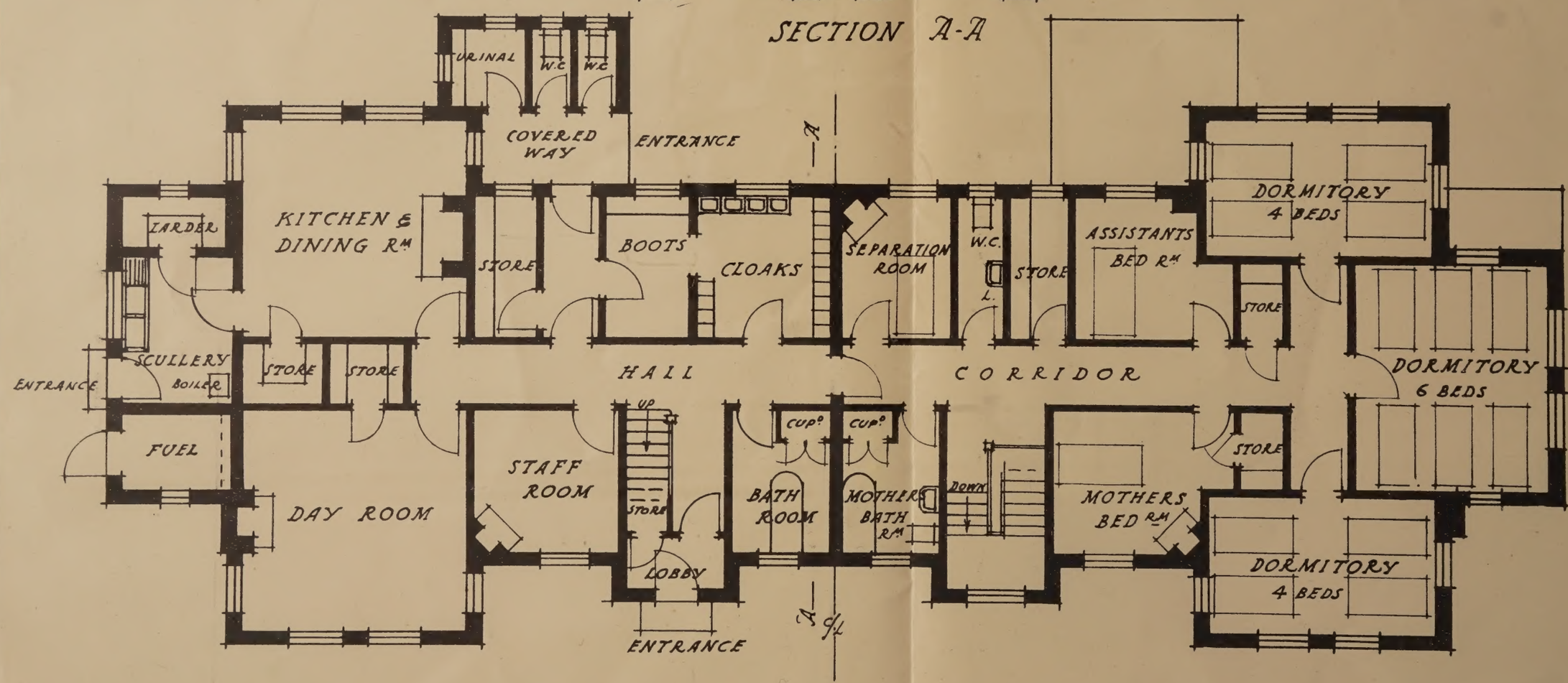
MINISTRY OF HEALTH.
WHITEHALL. S.W.
1934.

PLAN 2.

CUBICAL CONTENTS = 37,680 FEET @ 1d = £157
FOR SINGLE COTTAGE



SECTION A-A



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

DOUBLE COTTAGE TO ACCOMMODATE 14 CHILDREN IN EACH

10 5 0 10 20 30 40 50

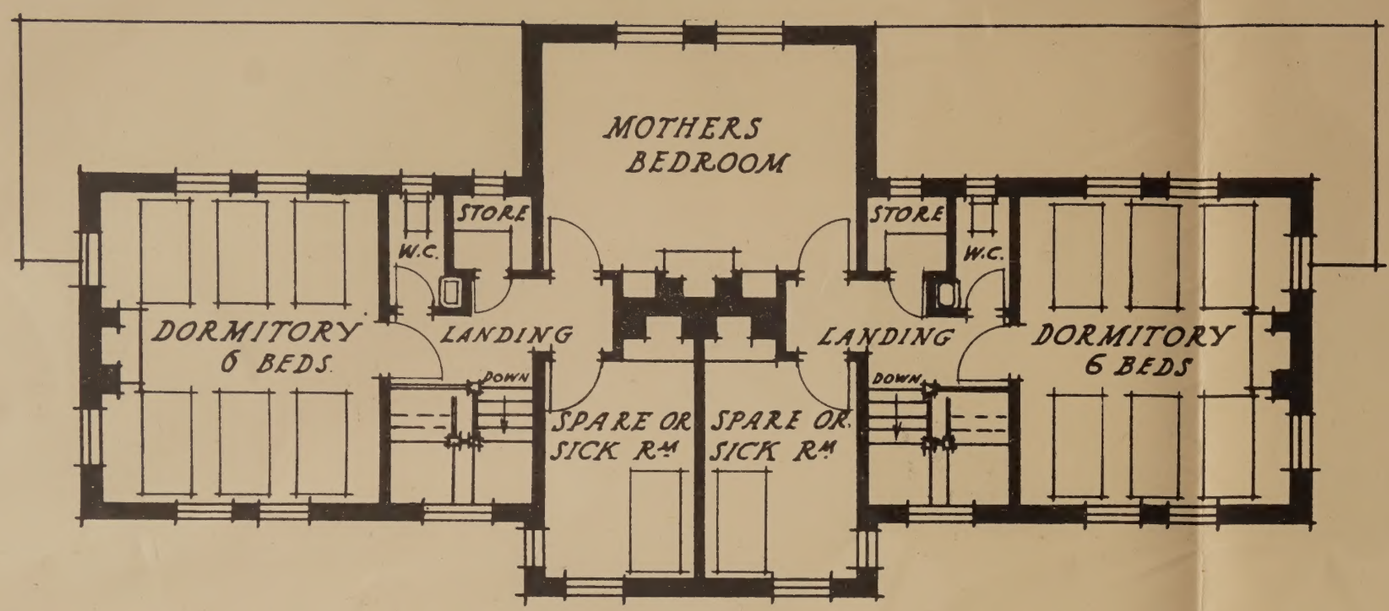
SCALE OF FEET

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
WHITEHALL, S.W.
1934.

(1386) Wt 4099 2339 375 1,35 G.P.C. & R.L.Co.

PLAN 3.

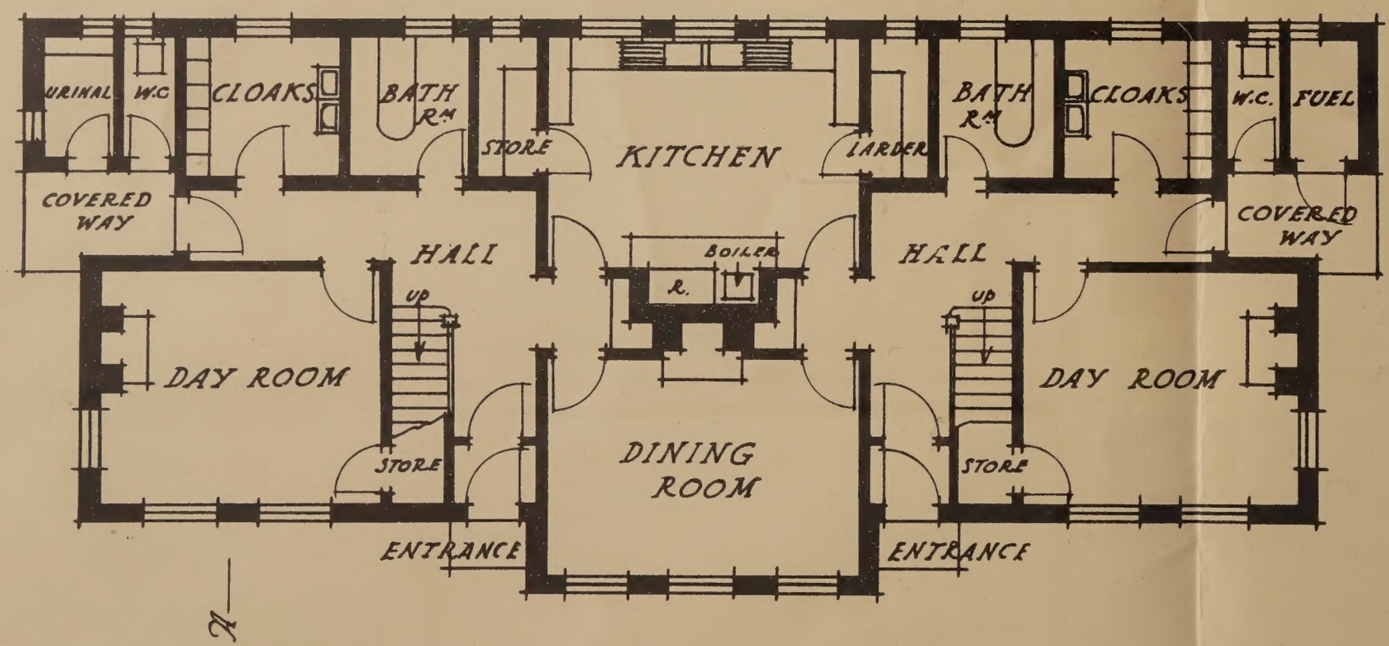
CUBICAL CONTENTS = 37,200 FEET @ 1d = £155



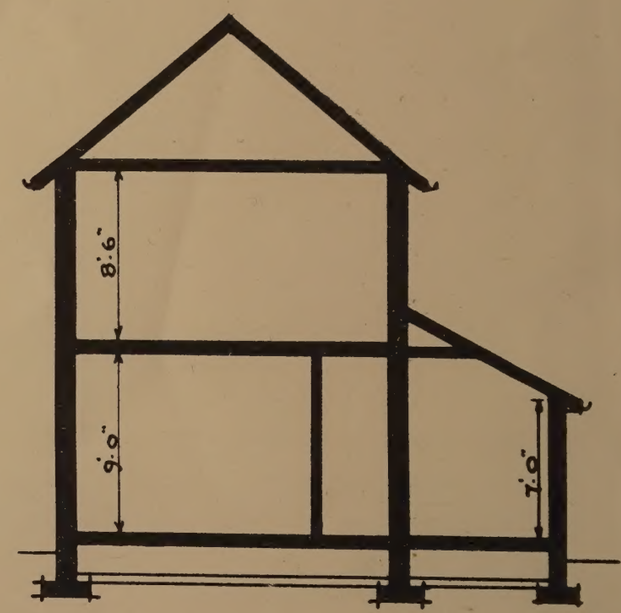
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

BOYS

GIRLS

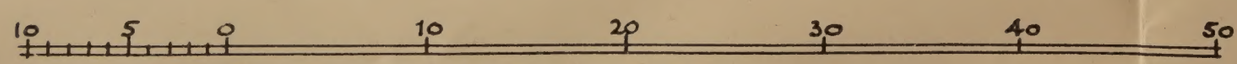


GROUND FLOOR PLAN



SECTION A.A.

RECEIVING HOME TO ACCOMMODATE 6 BOYS AND 6 GIRLS

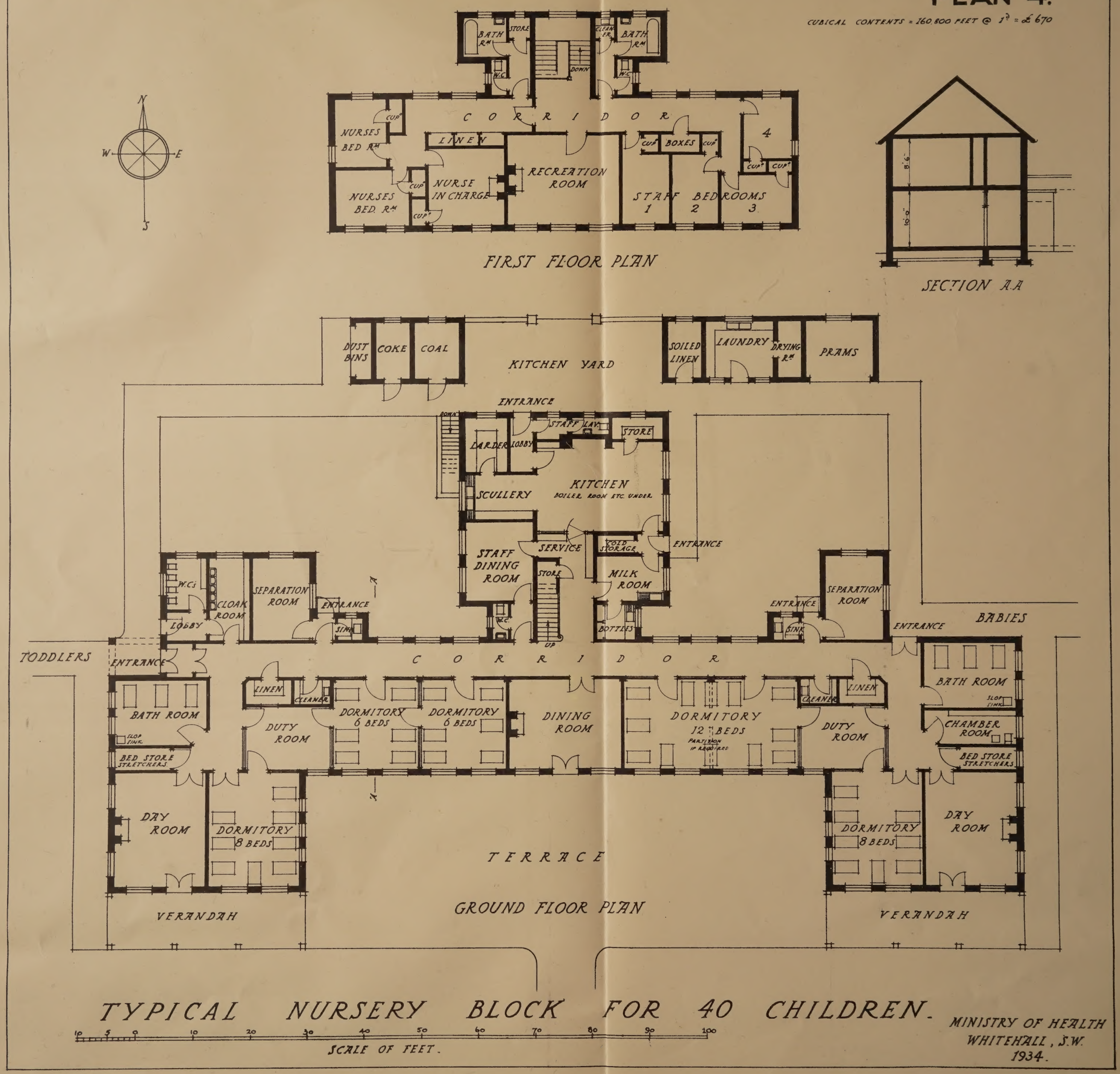


SCALE OF FEET.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH.
WHITEHALL, S.W.
1934.

PLAN 4.

CUBICAL CONTENTS = 160,800 FEET @ 1d = £670



TYPICAL NURSERY BLOCK FOR 40 CHILDREN.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
WHITEHALL, S.W.
1934.